

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 656
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Adjutant General Carl Wallace of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of former Adjutant General Carl Wallace; and

WHEREAS, General Carl Wallace was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, beloved by his troops and highly respected by his peers, General Wallace served with acumen and alacrity as Tennessee's Adjutant General from 1975 to 1981, the longest tenure by an Adjutant General in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, a native of the Indian Mound community of Stewart County, Carl Wallace attended Austin Peay State University and the University of Tennessee; he graduated from Cumberland University, receiving a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, both a scholar and a soldier, Mr. Wallace was also a legend in the Tennessee newspaper industry, starting in high school as a writer and later working as a journalist for the *Waverly News*, *The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* and ultimately *The Lebanon Democrat*; and

WHEREAS, in 1951 Carl Wallace joined the United States Air Force to begin his military career, but then transferred to the Army in 1952 where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant; he served with the 47th Infantry Division at Fort Rucker, Alabama before shipping out to Korea where he served with the 45th Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, a Korean War veteran on active duty until 1954, Carl Wallace joined the Tennessee National Guard in 1955 where he worked his way up through the ranks as an information officer; after his release from active military duty Mr. Wallace became Editor of the *Waverly News*; and

WHEREAS, in 1964 Carl Wallace became Editor of *The Lebanon Democrat*, which he later served as Vice President and Publisher; during his tenure the paper underwent tremendous expansion and ultimately became a daily paper in 1969; he was a very active member of the Tennessee Press Association; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Carl Wallace answered the call of his State when he accepted the appointment to serve as Adjutant General of the Tennessee National Guard by then Governor Ray Blanton, and he was subsequently most heartily reappointed by later Governors Lamar Alexander and Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, an astute and exemplary military commander, General Wallace saw the Tennessee National Guard rolls increase from 11,000 to 19,000 soldiers strong during his tenure. His strong adherence to active-duty military standards for all Guard members for physical fitness, training and education produced a state of readiness recognized and quickly utilized during the Persian Gulf War, when over 6,000 men and women of the Tennessee National Guard were called up for duty in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement in 1991 General Wallace was appointed the first Chancellor of Cumberland University and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters by his alma mater; and

WHEREAS, with a vision for a better life for his fellow Tennesseans and a soldier's sense of duty, in 1993 Carl Wallace became a candidate for Governor of Tennessee; despite an exciting and robust campaign his effort was unsuccessful, yet inspiring. Then fellow candidate, now Governor Phil Bredesen said, "I thought highly of him. He gave a great deal to Tennessee in the course of his career and life."; and

WHEREAS, admired as a soldier's soldier and a rare high-ranking officer who could walk amongst his troops and call them by name, General Wallace is fondly remembered by fellow Guardsman and former Governor Ned McWherter, "...He was respected and liked by every Guardsman, Air and National, that served under him. And that includes me, too. He was a great Tennessean."; and

WHEREAS, a highly decorated veteran, General Wallace also held degrees from the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, General Wallace had received honors and recognition from the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America for his contributions to his troops and his community; and

WHEREAS, General Wallace was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Lebanon, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, General Carl Wallace enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife Yvonne, and was the proud father of adored son Doug; and

WHEREAS, Carl Wallace leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Adjutant General Carl Wallace, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his peerless record of public service, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of General Wallace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.